



**(10) International Publication Number**  
**WO 2005/065411 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification?: **G01F 17/00** (74) Agent: SPATH, Thomas, E.; ABELMAN, FRAYNE & SCHWAB, 666 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017-5621 (US).

(21) International Application Number: **PCT/US2004/044048** (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, T, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date: **29 December 2004** (29.12.2004)

(25) Filing Language: **English**

(26) Publication Language: **English**

(30) Priority Data: **60/533,824** **31 December 2003 (31.12.2003)** **US**

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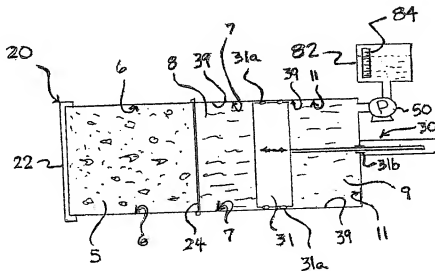
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(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): **ARIPO (BW, GB, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW, ZY), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM, European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).**

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(54) Title: TEST APPARATUS FOR DIRECT MEASUREMENT OF EXPANSION AND SHRINKAGE OF OIL WELL CEMENTS



**(57) Abstract:** A test apparatus for the measurement of expansion and/or shrinkage of a cement test sample during curing under pressure and temperature conditions that simulate downhole oil well conditions isolates the test sample from a first fixed volume chamber by using a flexible barrier that forms a wall of a first chamber in a pressure vessel assembly. The first chamber is sealed by a movable piston. A second pressurizing medium is contained in a second chamber on the opposite side of the piston, and is in fluid communication with a pump, whereby the piston is pressure-balanced between the first and the second chamber. The piston moves in a bore of the vessel assembly in response to changes in the volume of the test sample during curing. The position of the piston is detected by a sensor system that measures, correlates and transmits any change in the position of the piston as a change in the sample volume for display and recording.



**Published:**

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
15 December 2005

**(15) Information about Correction:**

**Previous Correction:**

see PCT Gazette No. 43/2005 of 27 October 2005, Section II

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*